

Environment and Sustainability Committee

Meeting Venue:
Committee Room 3 – Senedd

Meeting date:
29 January 2014

Meeting time:
09:30

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



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Agenda

1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

2 Sustainable Land Management : Evidence from Natural Resources Wales (09:30 – 10:30) (Pages 1 - 21) E&S(4)-03-14 paper 1

Joanne Sherwood, Head of Natural Resources Planning
Brian Pawson, Senior Agricultural Adviser

Break (10:30 – 10:45)

3 Sustainable Land Management : Evidence on the rural economy (10:45 – 11:30) (Pages 22 - 47)

E&S(4)-03-14 paper 2 : CLA
E&S(4)-03-14 paper 3 : Hybu Cig Cymru

Ben Underwood, Director Wales, CLA
Gary Davies, Regional Strategy Director, South West Wales Regional Partnership
Dai Davies, Chair, Hybu Cig Cymru
Siôn Aron Jones, Industry Development Manager, Hybu Cig Cymru

4 Sustainable Land Management : Evidence on small scale energy (11:30 – 12:15)

Chris Blake, Director, The Green Valleys (Wales)
Richard Tomlinson, Managing Director, Fre-energy

5 Papers to note (Pages 48 - 49)
Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January

Letter from the Minister for Local Government and Government Business – Interdependencies between the Future Generations, Planning and Environment Bills (Pages 50 - 53)
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Letter from the Chair of the Petitions Committee – P-04-343 Prevent the destruction of amenities on common land (Pages 54 - 56)
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Letter from the Minister for Natural Resources and Food – Climate Change
(Pages 57 - 58)
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National Assembly for Wales Environment & Sustainability Committee Inquiry into Sustainable Land Management

Submission by Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru/Natural Resources Wales

Summary

The purpose of Natural Resources Wales is to ensure that the natural resources of Wales are sustainably maintained, enhanced and used, now and in the future.

Wales faces many challenges - for its people and communities, for its economy and for its environment and wildlife. Key issues include securing energy and fuel supply, provision of jobs and income; tackling the threats of climate change and flooding; improving people's health and wellbeing. We believe that by unlocking the potential that lies within Wales' resources, by managing them and using them in a more joined up and integrated way, they can help to meet the challenges we face.

As part of meeting these challenges we will:

- Work for communities in Wales to make sure people and their homes are protected from environmental incidents like flooding and pollution. We will provide opportunities for people to learn, use and benefit from Wales' natural resources.
- Work for Wales' economy and enable the sustainable use of natural resources to support jobs & enterprise. We will help businesses and developers to understand and consider environmental impacts when they make important decisions.
- Work to maintain and improve the quality of the environment for everyone. We will help make the environment and natural resources more resilient to climate change and other pressures.
- Use our knowledge, and learn from the knowledge of others, to make Natural Resources Wales an efficient, effective and capable organisation for the people and environment of Wales

Key points arising from our written evidence to the Committee are:

- Sustainable land management (SLM) can support economic activity whilst protecting and enhancing terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

- SLM is best delivered through an ecosystem approach- *“a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way”*¹.
- Applying an ecosystem approach to SLM will benefit Welsh citizens and deliver a range of national and EU priorities. These include economic growth; social cohesion; reducing greenhouse gas emissions and flood risks; tackling climate change and meeting the requirements of a range of EU Directives.
- Reform of the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy must result in a direct payment system that supports land managers in adopting SLM practises.
- A well funded Welsh Rural Development Plan can deliver SLM through supporting knowledge transfer, co-operation, investment, and innovation.
- The approach of using market-based Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) to support SLM needs further development.
- Existing and future monitoring programmes should identify the current extent of SLM practises and assess progress towards the wider adoption of these over time.

¹ CBD (2004) Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, The Ecosystem Approach, (CBD Guidelines) Montreal.

1. Introduction

Sustainable land management (SLM) involves supporting economic activity whilst protecting and enhancing terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. SLM is best delivered through an ecosystem approach- *“a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way”*². Doing so ensures traditional ecosystem services are delivered in a way that protects ecosystem *resilience* – the ability of ecosystems to respond naturally to pressures such as climate change.

Applying an ecosystem approach to SLM will benefit Welsh citizens and deliver a range of national and EU priorities: economic growth, social cohesion, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and flood risk, tackling climate change, and meeting the requirements of the Habitats, Wild Birds, Water Framework, Bathing Water, Drinking Water and Nitrates Directives.

2. Response to Inquiry Questions

(i) What do we want sustainable land management in Wales to look like?

This response focuses on rural Wales, but recognises that similar principles apply within urban areas.

Sustainable land management in Wales involves the sustainable management of all land including the agricultural and forestry sectors whilst safeguarding ecosystem resilience. This is a complex challenge. For instance, any increase in production and profits will be short-lived if ecosystems are degraded through the loss of soil and nutrients. At the same time water quality, fish stocks, and related ecosystem services will be compromised.

Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) is a well established concept defined by the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) as *“...the stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystem...”*³

Integrating SLM and SFM requires evaluating complex trade offs through scientific and political judgement that can lead to challenging choices between, for example, production or landscape value. The approach used in the UK National Ecosystem Assessment (UKNEA) ascribes monetary values to different ecosystem services using “willingness to pay”. Other approaches such as Payments for Ecosystems Services (PES) use market based mechanisms⁴.

Sustainability requires that ecosystem services are not derived at the expense of “natural capital”. For example, semi-natural habitats such as peatland contribute to ecosystem

² CBD (2004) Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, The Ecosystem Approach, (CBD Guidelines) Montreal.

³ http://www.mcpfe.org/eng/Commitments/Ministerial_Conferences/Helsinki_1993/

⁴ Engel, S., Pagiola, S., Wunder., S (2008). Designing payments for ecosystems services in theory and practice: an overview of the issues. Ecological Economics 62, 663-674

resilience by storing carbon and water⁵. Grazing should be managed to support the delivery of these services alongside food production.

All farm and woodland businesses can reduce negative impacts and provide positive benefits across a range of ecosystem services. For example, nutrient management plans can increase profitability whilst protecting water quality, aquatic ecosystems and associated services. The key message is SLM involves supporting actions that improve economic, social and ecosystem resilience.

Natural Resources Wales seeks a regulatory, incentive and guidance framework that supports all land managers in the adoption of sustainable land management practices for the benefit of the economy, society and the environment.

(ii). What outcomes do we want to deliver in the short, medium and longer term?

The specific land management outcomes that NRW wishes to see are underpinned by existing Welsh Government targets and include the following:

- Restoring all WFD water bodies to Good Ecological Status by 2021;
- Bringing Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) into favourable condition by 2026;
- Achieving an annual 3% reduction in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in areas of devolved competence.

The first River Basin Management Plans (RBMP's) revealed only 33% of water bodies were at "Good Status". Approximately 14% of failures are related to agricultural activities: livestock poaching, erosion of river banks, run-off from grassland and arable fields, tracks and farm yards, and the poor slurry management. In delivering the second RBMPs for 2016-2021, we want to strengthen regulatory, financial and operational mechanisms to protect the water environment and deliver ecosystem services and benefits to Wales.

Protected sites contribute to broader ecosystem resilience. However, SSSIs were not designed as an ecological network, but as a 'portfolio' of independent sites. It is important to consider how the condition and connectivity of protected sites affect the resilience of the wider environment.

Woodland creation and management are prioritised in the Climate Change Strategy Delivery Plan for Agriculture and Land Use⁶. In 2010 the Welsh Government announced a target of creating 100,000 ha of new woodland by 2030 as one of the measures in support of this strategy. Economic estimates suggest woodland creation is a cost-effective climate change

⁵ See:

<http://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/MFF%20RN12%202007%20Peak%20District%20moorland%20carbon%20flux.pdf>

⁶

<http://www.cynnalcyrmru.com/sites/default/files/Climate%20Change%20Strategy%20for%20Wales.pdf>

mitigation measure⁷. WFD and SLM efforts can be integrated through strategic woodland creation that improves water quality and restores aquatic ecosystems.

(iii). What are the barriers preventing us from delivering these outcomes now?

The principal barriers to the uptake of SLM that can deliver key outcomes are:

- Our economic system undervalues the role of the natural environment;
- SLM has not been sufficiently well defined and embedded at a national level;
- Land managers do not always have access to all of the information required;
- Existing mechanisms are inadequate for tackling trade-offs and synergies in the provision of ecosystem services at the national, regional and local level.

Natural Resources Wales legacy bodies, the Farming Unions and key environment partners have agreed on five priorities for SLM:

- Gaining a better understanding of all that land management delivers
- Developing policies and strategies that allow for a more of a “bottom-up” approach
- Ensuring regulation is outcome based
- Optimising the profitability of land based businesses and activity
- Building trust and confidence between stakeholder groups

Land managers operate under conflicting objectives; short term economic gains are rewarded more than ecosystem resilience, biodiversity, water quality and reducing in greenhouse gas emissions. The recent Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) project addressed these kinds of “market failures” at a European scale⁸.

The Welsh countryside is managed principally for “provisioning services” (food and timber), but provides many other ecosystem services (see Appendix 1). The UK National Ecosystem Assessment (UKNEA) summarised how farmland management impacts on some of the potential ecosystem services as follows⁹:

⁷ <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/INFD-8YAECD>

⁸ <http://www.teebweb.org/>

⁹ UK National Ecosystem Assessment. Accessible at: <http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/>

UK trends in ecosystem services affected by agricultural land management

Final ecosystem service	Impact of farmland on service	Comments
Crops, livestock, etc	++	Farmland is managed largely for food production
Trees, standing vegetation, peat	-	The uplands are major stores of peat, which has been subject to losses through drainage, erosion and removal.
Climate regulation	--	Strong negative score due to emissions of greenhouse gases and soil carbon
Water quality	+/-	Important to capture rain water; potential for flood risk mitigation often compromised by management
Hazard regulation	--	Negative impact on sediment losses to watercourses
Waste breakdown and detoxification	--/+	Negative score due to diffuse pollution of water courses; positive score due to potential to help manage wastes through composting, anaerobic digestion etc
Wild species diversity including microbes	--	Negative impacts: status of microbes unknown
Socially valued landscapes	++	Farm management is largely responsible for the landscapes that many people cherish

Land management actions that mitigate these impacts can reduce operational costs. For example, soil testing and nutrient management plans can help reduce application rates and improve water quality and reducing GHG emissions without reducing production^{10,11}.

Barriers to uptake of SLM approaches include lack of information and operational/cultural inertia. There can also be concerns over profitability (e.g. the fear that reduced fertiliser use will reduce production) or the need for capital investment and/or reductions in income. Despite this, reductions in livestock density undertaken as part of habitat restoration can sometimes be compensated by a higher sale price for the animals produced¹².

Where a net investment is required, information alone is unlikely to incentivise the majority of land managers. In recent decades these 'market failures' have been addressed through agri-environment schemes. More recently, pressure on Government funding has increased interest in the use of market based measures¹³.

Effective SLM will require both improving knowledge transfer and addressing market failures. The Pontbren project has demonstrated how good stock management, including

¹⁰ Reduce fertiliser costs with nutrient management plan". Farmers Guardian 29th May 2013

¹¹ Soil nutrient testing and nutrient management planning formed part of the Catchment Sensitive Farming Pilot Projects in Wales (Twrch, Llafar and Deepford Brook).

¹² Anglesey Grazing Animals Partnership. See: <http://www.agap-ynysmon.co.uk/>

¹³ Wynne-Jones, S. Connecting payments for ecosystem services and agri-environment regulation: An Analysis of the Welsh Glastir Scheme. Journal of Rural Studies 31 (2013) 77-86.

the provision of shelterbelts that also reduce run off from upland catchments, can improve business performance¹⁴. This work highlights the need to combine knowledge transfer with incentive mechanisms.

(iv). How do we overcome these challenges?

SLM must make 'economic sense' as well as providing social and environment benefits. The Welsh agricultural and forestry sectors can benefit from a combination of the following measures:

(a) Smarter Regulation

Natural Resources Wales supports Welsh Government in implementing the recommendations from the recent "Working Smarter" Report. This stated *"that farmers are fearful of environmental regulations and see them as an obstacle to developing their businesses. Unfortunately, too many farmers believe that they have to choose between food production and the delivery of environmental benefits, whereas in reality good business and a healthy environment are perfectly compatible. Compliance with regulation, far from being a net cost to businesses, can often enhance and add value"*¹⁵.

Natural Resources Wales believes SLM efforts will benefit from regulation that is outcome focussed and customer centred. Doing so will require working with individual (and groups of) businesses to communicate desired outcomes, allowing businesses flexibility in how outcomes are delivered, and penalising polluters in cases of gross negligence.

Haverfordwest Creamery provides a good example of this kind of approach. First Milk is planning to open a new water treatment plant in 2014 to deal with the effluent resulting from cheese production. This will mean discharging treated waste water into the Western Cleddau, a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the EC Habitats Directive. Whilst the new treatment plant will need to meet strict environmental standards, the resulting discharge will still add nutrients to the river. In order offset this, Natural Resources Wales and First Milk are developing a scheme to reduce the environmental impact of local farming practices. This will ensure that the reduction in nutrient run-off from these farms is equal to, or greater than, the nutrients discharged directly by the creamery. The scheme is also a requirement of the permit that allows the Creamery to operate.

(b) Improvements in Knowledge Transfer

The new Wales Rural Development Plan (WRDP) should support the communication and delivery of 'win-win' interventions. Environmental advice may be perceived by larger businesses as irrelevant rather than as a mechanism to deliver SLM. Both the Farming

¹⁴ <http://www.pontbrenfarmers.co.uk/>

Wheater, H. and Evans, E. Land use, water management and future flood risk in Land Use Policy 26S (2009) S251–S264

¹⁵ Working Smarter: A Report of Recommendations to the Welsh Government on Better Regulation in Farming. Gareth J Williams, December 2011. Section 10.10, page 43

Advisory Service (FAS) and Farming Connect should articulate the link between profitability and ecosystem service delivery. Appropriate and flexible advice packages already exist^{16,17}.

Improving support for woodland creation and management will ensure that sustainable agriculture delivers the full range of desired ecosystem services. Research shows that farmers consider advice essential for implementing woodland schemes¹⁸.

(c) Effective Use of Incentives

CAP reform will allow up to 15% of the direct payments budget to be transferred into the WRDP. These funds can be used to support knowledge transfer, co-operation, investment and innovation in support of SLM.

Keeping the emphasis on income support will result in a more uneven trajectory of business development. Whilst some farmers may use payments to improve competitiveness through investment in SLM, others will continue with current practices even if doing so compromises long term sustainability.

(d) Introduction of Market-Based Measures

Managing most rural land for provisioning services (primarily livestock products or timber) alone traps land managers in a “boom and bust” cycle. Diversification can support flexible and innovative approaches to income generation. Whilst tourism is one route, delivering broader ecosystem service benefits through other activities can be just as important. To illustrate this, the 2007 ‘Wildlife Economy Wales’ scoping study estimated the total economic output value of wildlife related activities in Wales to be in the order of £1.9 billion and could be supporting over 30,000 jobs in any one year¹⁹. Much of this output is driven by or strongly linked to public service, hospitality / retail and agriculture related activities. Best practice guidelines are available to help develop this approach²⁰.

(e) Effective use of Exemplars

Exemplar projects can be used to test new approaches and share key messages with land managers and policy makers.

Launched in 2008, the Cambrian Mountains Initiative (CMI) partnership aims to deliver Sustainable Integrated Rural Development²¹. It demonstrates how SLM can support traditional upland farms and communities. Local businesses are encouraged to become economically self-sustaining in ways that support the environment through enhancing soil carbon, improving water quality, and mitigate flood risks. This could deliver ecosystem

¹⁶ Environmental Cost Benefits Datasheets for Farming Connect. Report to Countryside Council for Wales and Welsh Government by Cumulus Consultants and FWAG Cymru. <http://www.cumulus-consultants.co.uk/portfolio-training.html>

¹⁷ Integrated Advice Pilot Project. Defra funded project FF0204. <http://www.adas.co.uk/Home/Projects/IAP/tabid/349/Default.aspx>

¹⁸ A survey of farmers with woodland on their land. Report to Forestry Commission Wales by Wavehill Consulting. November 2009.

¹⁹ www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Research/wildlifewales_wb_1823119.pdf

²⁰ <http://sd.defra.gov.uk/2013/07/payments-for-ecosystem-services-best-practice-guide/>

²¹ www.cambrianmountains.co.uk

services to society worth approximately £8.3 M per annum²². The Initiative has embedded Cambrian Mountains Lamb in the premium UK market, supported the Cambrian Mountains Lamb Producer Group, and helped develop a seasonably flexible supply chain. The CMI is also working with local businesses to establish the Cambrians as a distinctive tourism destination through a mutually agreed Destination Development Plan.

(f) Closer Integration of the Farming and Forestry

Forestry grants have been delivered through Glastir Advanced and Glastir Woodland Creation, but the current WRDP does not easily accommodate the integration of agriculture and commercial forestry.

The new WRDP can better incorporate forestry activities into Glastir through more integrated advisory services. Farming Connect is well respected by the farming sector and given that most unmanaged woodlands are located on farms, it would make sense to integrate forestry advice and advocacy into a more broadly based “Connect” programme.

(v). What are the main policy drivers and how can these be shaped to overcome the challenges?

The main policy drivers influencing land managers in Wales are:

(a) Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

The current round of CAP reform will change the existing system of direct payments to farmers and the actions they need to undertake to receive these payments. Direct payments can help to support SLM via a new area payment system, cross compliance and the application of the new greening measures. For example, Article 31(1) of the draft Regulation on Direct Payments requires all Member States to establish “no ploughing zones” on permanent grassland within Natura 2000 sites. Using the permissive parts of the new Direct Payments Regulation to protect species rich permanent grasslands as well as those overlying carbon rich soils would impose few additional obligations over and above the existing EIA Regulations, but would be a much more effective mechanism.

A well funded WRDP can help to deliver SLM through supporting knowledge transfer, co-operation, investment and innovation. Previous research showed that the scale of the interventions needed to meet the Welsh Government’s objectives for biodiversity, cultural landscapes, climate change mitigation, flood risk management, soil health, and water quality amounted to £165M per annum²³. This is almost double the amount allocated to the current agri-environment programme, despite no adjustment for inflation since 2009.

(b) EU Biodiversity Policy

²² <http://cambrianmountains.co.uk/news/incentives-vital-for-farmers-to-provide-more-than-just-food/>

²³ “Estimating the Scale of Future Environmental Land Management Requirements for the UK”. Cao, Y., Elliott, J., McCracken, D., Rowe, K., Whitehead, J. and Wilson L. Report to Land Use Policy Group by ADAS & Scottish Agricultural College. December 2009.

The EU Biodiversity Strategy (EUBS)²⁴ aims to halt the loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystem services by 2020. The agricultural and forestry sectors are expected to contribute through existing mechanisms such as CAP. Welsh Government leads on delivery of EUBS in Wales and will produce its own Biodiversity Strategy. An opportunity exists to engage with stakeholders and reach agreement on how to reach the 2020 target.

The Habitats & Species and Birds Directives aim to halt and reverse historic declines in biodiversity. The Directives require:

- protection of vulnerable species of birds, animals and plants wherever they occur in the EU;
- creation of a network of sites (Natura 2000) within which management is necessary to enable habitats and species to achieve “favourable conservation” status throughout their natural range.

Member States are expected to prepare ‘Prioritised Action Frameworks’ (PAFs) to meet Directive obligations. Natural Resources Wales, with support from EU LIFE+ funds, is developing an all-Wales programme for managing Natura 2000 sites in Wales.

The PAF programme uses stakeholder supported prioritised action plans to address relationships between the maintenance and restoration of biodiversity, and the provision of food, timber, water, recreation and other ecosystem services. The plans provide evidence to support the development of integrated policies, management practices and funding streams.

The first PAF for Wales was submitted in February 2013. The framework is being developed by Natural Resources Wales with Welsh Government and other stakeholders.

(c) Water Framework Directive (WFD)

The WFD takes a holistic approach to managing the water environment. Most water bodies are expected to meet “Good Ecological Status” (unless otherwise justified).

Natural Resources Wales is the Competent Authority for implementation of the WFD in Wales. Our work involves drafting and delivering River Basin Management Plans (RBMP’s) through working in partnership with a wide range of public, private and voluntary organisations.

The RBMP process identifies measure to protect and restore the water environment. It includes actions to achieve objectives for Natura 2000 sites, Bathing Waters, Shellfish & Drinking Water Protected Areas.

SLM practise is central to the rural land based measures that are needed to bring about the outcomes required by the WFD.

²⁴ European Union 2011. The EU Biodiversity Strategy ‘Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020’
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5b1%5d.pdf

(d) Climate Change Policy

At least 20% of the total EU budget should be spent on climate change related actions²⁵. Better targeting of the CAP and regional development funds will contribute to this investment. The 20% target provides an ideal opportunity to take an Ecosystem Approach to integrating the new WRDP and complementary EU Directive drivers to deliver SLM in Wales.

In Wales, the Climate Change Strategy has an annual emissions reduction target of 3%²⁶. In 2010, the Land Use and Climate Change sub group of the Climate Change Commission explored how land management could contribute to reducing GHG emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration²⁷. The most widely publicised recommendation adopted was to create an additional 100,000ha of woodland by 2030.

Welsh Government continues to support the development of sectoral adaptation plans (SAPs). The natural environment SAP is currently under development and depends on achieving synergies and minimising conflicts with other land uses. Natural Resources Wales feels a catchment-based, spatially explicit approach to identifying opportunities for land use change can deliver enhanced resilience to climate change in terms biodiversity, landscape, woodlands and water quality.

(e) Forestry Policy

Welsh Government's Woodlands for Wales strategy operates across global and European contexts²⁸. The goal of increasing woodland is compromised by woodland loss due to land use change and objections to planting trees on agricultural land. Some 2340 ha of new woodland has been created since 2010²⁹ and Welsh Government is currently reviewing how to improve scheme uptake.

Some 42% of Welsh woodlands (128,000 ha) are currently unmanaged. Management can be incentivised through well targeted grant schemes.

(f) Environment Bill

Natural Resources Wales believes that natural resource planning should be given a statutory basis in new legislation in order to clarify its relationship with other policies, plans and strategies. This will provide a common evidence base for land management and land use planning systems. Such an approach will ensure that limits on natural resources are widely recognised in planning systems, the WRDP and all other relevant social and economic

²⁵ European Council (2013). Conclusions on the Multi-annual Financial Framework (paragraph 10). EUCO 37/13, 8 February 2013, Brussels. Accessible at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/135344.pdf

²⁶

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/climatechange/publications/strategy/?lang=en>

²⁷

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/climatechange/emissions/agricultureandlanduse/?lang=en>

²⁸ [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/EnglishWfWstrategy.pdf/\\$FILE/EnglishWfWstrategy.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/EnglishWfWstrategy.pdf/$FILE/EnglishWfWstrategy.pdf)

²⁹ Forestry Statistics 31st March 2010 to 31st March 2013. New woodland figure derived from all sources including Plant! and Glastir Woodland Creation.

policies. The new system of natural resource planning should be based on the Ecosystem Approach.

Natural Resources Wales believes a statutory national strategic natural resource plan should be coupled with statutory duties for Local Authorities, National Park Authorities and public sectors. These would require that they exercise their functions in line with the aspirations of the strategic natural resource plan.

The national plan can be supported as necessary by catchment scale plans. Natural Resources Wales should be granted the flexibility to enable delivery of natural resource planning in the most effective and efficient way.

A duty should be placed on Natural Resources Wales to advise Welsh Government on the adequacy with which Local Authorities and National Park Authorities have incorporated a spatial framework and natural resource plans in their Local Development Plans. This would complement the assessment of plans currently required under the 'Strategic Environmental Assessment' (SEA) Directive. Natural Resources Wales would need additional resources to fulfil this requirement. A common narrative between the Environment and Planning Bills will help accommodate interdependencies and identify synergies.

Natural Resources Wales would welcome the opportunity to explore innovative approaches to natural resource management and regulation. Legislation should be non-prescriptive, but ensure that Welsh Government approval is required for the use of exploratory powers. Natural Resources Wales currently has narrowly defined experimental powers. An extension of these existing powers would enable Natural Resources Wales to explore the use of market mechanisms to pay for ecosystem services, as well as simplify permitting processes.

(vi). How do we define the key ecosystems and ecosystem services in a way that makes sense for Wales?

Ecosystems comprise living organisms, their non-living surroundings, and all the interactions between them³⁰. Some ecosystems may correspond with individual habitats and the scale of land management activities e.g grazing of a heathland. On the other hand, many ecosystem processes, such as the water cycle, operate at larger geographical scales such as entire catchments.

There are several ecosystems classifications available for Wales^{31,32}. The Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) is structured around nine ecosystem groups³³. These are supported by species expert groups for developing guidance and setting priorities for biodiversity action³⁴.

In the context of SLM it is convenient to consider four categories of 'ecosystem services'³⁵:

³⁰ Natural Resources Wales (2013). Draft Ecosystem Approach Framework.

³¹ Welsh Government (WG) (2011b). Natural Environment Framework Ecosystem Scale. Welsh Government Paper.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/nef/publications/evidence/ecosystemsscale/?lang=en>

³² UK National Ecosystem Assessment (2011). The UK National Ecosystem Assessment: Synthesis of the Key Findings. UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge

³³ Coastal, Enclosed Farmland, Freshwater, Lowland Grassland & Heathland, Marine, Upland, Urban & Brownfield, Wetland, Woodland

³⁴ <http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/en-GB/Ecosystems--Species-Expert-Groups>

³⁵ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005. Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis.

- Supporting services which include the underlying mechanics of ecosystems themselves (e.g. ecological processes, soil formation and nutrients cycling) and are necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services;
- Provisioning services such as food, fuel and water;
- Regulating services such as water purification, carbon sequestration and pollination;
- Cultural services providing a source of aesthetic, spiritual, religious, recreational or scientific enrichment;

Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales have provided a list of relevant ecosystem services and a framework for applying the Ecosystem Approach in Wales³⁶.

Embedding and communicating the Ecosystem Approach is an outstanding challenge, and there is a need to improve understanding of the links between services and the benefits they provide to society.

Natural Resources Wales has produced ecosystem services maps that can help deliver the Ecosystem Approach. New information from field surveys, remote sensing data and land use surveys will be incorporated as available.

Linking SLM, ecology and economics is an important part of the Ecosystem Approach. The UK National Ecosystem Assessment³⁷ estimated the environment contributes £8.8 billion annually to the Welsh economy, accounts for 9% of Welsh GDP, and one in six Welsh jobs.

Exemplar projects can aid understanding of the Ecosystem Approach. The Llanelli Rainscape Project initiated by Dwr Cymru aims to reduce rainwater entering the sewerage system thereby reducing the sewerage flooding risk. Using mainly natural processes rather than traditional ‘concrete interventions’, this is a major scheme for Wales^{38,39}.

The concept of “resilience thinking” may help farmers and foresters embed the principles of the Ecosystem Approach into business planning⁴⁰.

Resilience is the ability of ecosystems to resist, absorb, or recover from disturbance. Diversity in all its forms (biological, ecological, landscape, social and economic) enhances resilience⁴¹. For example, the shelter belts created at Pontbren allow sheep to remain outdoors for longer in winter. At the same time they also increase rainfall infiltration into the land; reducing run-off during storms and pollution risks as well as enhancing biodiversity.

(vii). How do we develop a baseline from which to measure progress? This includes how we collect, coordinate and use data to support sustainable land management in Wales.

Island Press, Washington

³⁶ Natural Resources Wales (2013). Draft Ecosystem Approach Framework.

³⁷ UKNEA (2011). UK National Ecosystem Assessment: Technical Report Chapter 20: Status and Changes in the UK’s Ecosystems and their Services to Society: Wales.

³⁸ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4084624>

³⁹ http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/532.pdf

⁴⁰ Walker, B. & Salt, D. (2006) *Resilience thinking: Sustaining ecosystems and people in a changing world*. Island Press, Washington D.C.

⁴¹ Hopkins, J.J., Allison, H.M., Walmsley, C.A., Gaywood, M. and Thurgate, G. (2007). *Conserving biodiversity in a changing climate: guidance on building capacity to adapt*. UK Biodiversity Partnership, Defra.

Developing an informative baseline requires that Welsh Government and relevant stakeholders agree on desired SLM outcomes and appropriate spatial scales for assessment. These issues have been highlighted in a recent UK wide assessment of sustainable intensification⁴². Suitable variables are likely to include nitrate emissions, GHG emissions, biodiversity change, water quality and soil quality. The challenge of choosing the best indices for a range of analyses is being explored through the Defra Sustainable Intensification Research Platform⁴³.

The extent to which existing data constitute such a baseline should be assessed. Numerous governmental and non-governmental monitoring programmes provide data relevant to SLM assessment. A fundamental challenge is to collect and collate these data, and any additional data required to fill gaps, in consistent and easily accessible formats to inform SLM assessment. Meeting this challenge will require committing resources to establish and maintain data sets that can be made widely available across Wales via the web. Data confidentiality for some sources remains an issue.

New opportunities are emerging in the form of remote sensing technologies and involving land managers and the public in data collection and charting their own contributions towards achieving SLM. This latter approach was explored in the LUPG study on sustainable intensification⁴⁴.

Making the most of existing and future data requires coordinated oversight of evidence-gathering activities. At the UK level, this is supported by the UK Environmental Observation Framework (both Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government participate in this). A parallel forum should be established in Wales.

(viii). What incentives can we provide land managers to develop sustainable practices, and in particular, are there any new sources of investment we can attract to support these?

Incentives available under the WRDP include agricultural, forestry, agri-environment and climate change schemes. These should be coupled with knowledge transfer. Farmer focus groups established during recent work on “sustainable intensification” suggested that “evidence needs to be better communicated to farmers”⁴⁵.

Loan schemes can support existing grant systems. Doing so may save resources whilst encouraging innovation and enterprise. Care will be needed to manage administrative costs and limit default rates. Loans can be incentivised to encourage timely repayment.

⁴² Exploring the Concept of Sustainable Intensification. Report for the UK Land Use Policy Group by ADAS and Les Firbank Ecosystems. January 2013. Accessible at: <http://aplus.adas.co.uk/Services/sustainability/Exploring-the-Concept-of-Sustainable-Intensification.aspx>

⁴³ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/218813/New132.pdf

⁴⁴ Exploring the Concept of Sustainable Intensification (2013). ADAS report to Land Use Policy Group. *Op cit*

⁴⁵ Exploring the Concept of Sustainable Intensification (2013). ADAS report to LUPG. *Op cit*

Many rural businesses regularly borrow and will be comfortable applying for loans under the WRDP. Businesses seeking support for major capital projects should provide robust business plans. The terms and conditions of all loans should require compliance with best environmental standards.

Other EU programmes provide additional funding options. The Anglesey and Llyn fens LIFE Project has worked to re-direct spring water from land drainage systems to fenland habitats to reduce flood risk, improve water quality, sequester carbon, and improve fish and wildlife habitats. In addition, the project has helped farmers sustainably graze some 500ha of fen habitat; demonstrating how ecosystems restoration can also benefit production⁴⁶.

In responding to the Welsh Government's recent consultation on EU Structural Funds, we suggested that the 'Green Infrastructure' concept inform all major investments. The creation of a strategic network of green spaces will deliver sustainable benefits for local communities, including: flood alleviation, recreation, education, food production, community cohesion, and improve health and well-being. Many elements in the WRDP can support green infrastructure development, particularly the environmental and community measures.

Private sector investment can support EU and Welsh Government programmes. Several UK water companies have funded land management projects. Northumbrian Water's "Tees Water Colour Project" reduces treatment costs, improves water quality, and reduces carbon loss⁴⁷. United Utilities and the RSPB have developed the Sustainable Catchment Management Programme (SCaMP)⁴⁸. Despite recent progress, such large projects have yet to be widely embraced in Wales.

A number of market based mechanisms can support SLM and SFM programmes:

Woodland Carbon Code (WCC)

The WCC accredits woodland carbon sequestration so that forestry schemes can attract funding from corporate social responsibility (CSR) budgets. The WCC provides a model that can be extended to markets for other ecosystem services. The code includes strict sustainability criteria to ensure woodland management for carbon is not detrimental to other ecosystem services. Fifteen pilot projects were established across the UK in 2010 and there are now seven registered sites in Wales with total credits of 116ktC⁴⁹.

Peatland Carbon Code

Based on the WCC model, the IUCN is currently consulting on a code to promote investment in peatland restoration⁵⁰. Such restoration is not formally accepted as contributing to GHG emission reductions under the Kyoto process. However, the IPCC is developing guidance for peatland restoration as part of national GHG inventory recording. These guidelines should encourage more market investment.

⁴⁶ <http://www.angleseyandllynfens.com/>

⁴⁷ See: <http://www.nwl.co.uk/Teewatercolourproject.aspx>

⁴⁸ See: <http://www.unitedutilities.com/?OBH=5410>

⁴⁹ Woodland Carbon Code <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/carboncode>

⁵⁰ <http://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/peatland-code>

Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC)

The UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification UK (PEFC UK) verifies that woodlands are sustainably managed and reach FSC standards. Many users and major retailers require FSC certification that reflects sustainability across the whole supply chain. All Welsh Government Woodland Estate woodlands (as managed by Natural Resources Wales) are FSC certified.

Biodiversity offsetting

Biodiversity offsets require that environmentally damaging developments provide ecological compensation. Offsets can be undertaken on a project basis or by pooling compensation through a third party to support restoration and/or land purchase elsewhere. Projects should still look to avoid/minimise harm before offsetting is considered. There will be circumstances when offsetting is not acceptable due to the importance of the features that will be affected or the difficulty of creating a similar habitat.

Since the 1970s the aquatic resource scheme in the USA has supported over 400 wetland banks operating in a market worth more than \$3 billion a year⁵¹. A voluntary biodiversity offsetting scheme is now underway in six planning jurisdictions in England⁵².

There are also links between SLM and health and well being. In effect, ‘environmental engagement’ is a form of treatment through the NHS, which by improving health reduces Government expenditure⁵³.

(ix). How can we ensure that our sustainable land management policies maintain vibrant rural communities and attract new entrants into the land-based sector?

A geographical area based approach to WRDP delivery can improve local governance and build project capacity⁵⁴. The Grosseto Province in Italy demonstrates how SLM can deliver added value agriculture, expand tourism and increase support for protected areas. A parallel approach in Wales could involve the development of integrated territorial strategies, each focussed on delivering WRDP measures in a given landscape or river catchment.

LEADER builds on the experience of local community groups to support innovative pilot projects. LEADER can be used to support integrated approaches to SLM. In particular, the community-led “bottom-up” approach used within LEADER contrasts strongly with the largely “top-down” approach deployed under the current Axis 1 & 2 schemes.

Supporting new entrants through skills improvement, mentoring, capital grants and support for co-operative ventures can promote business innovation. Support should be conditional on a commitment to SLM. In many cases, the most vulnerable time from an environmental

⁵¹ Further information accessible at:

http://water.epa.gov/type/wetlands/outreach/facts_contents.cfm

⁵² Environment Bank England. <http://www.environmentbank.com>.

⁵³ http://www.coedlleol.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1166%3Aactif-woods-wales-seminar-days-to-be-held-in-aberystwyth-and-treherbert&catid=12%3Ahealth-a-activities&Itemid=43&lang=en

⁵⁴ Mantino, F. (2011). “Developing a Territorial Approach for the CAP”. Accessible at: <http://www.ieep.eu/work-areas/agriculture-and-land-management/future-of-the-cap/2011/07/developing-a-territorial-approach-for-the-cap>

perspective is when a change of land ownership takes place. Incorporating education and skill development into training and advice programmes will strengthen the linkage between SLM and economic sustainability.

In terms of supporting young entrants, Natural Resources Wales has required that those tendering for some long-term timber harvesting contracts (LTC's) take on apprentices who will be trained up to NVQ level 2. To date five apprentices have been employed, and five additional positions are expected following LTC re-tendering.

(x). The most appropriate geographical scale(s) at which we should be delivering sustainable land management policies and practices in Wales?

All scales are appropriate for progressing SLM. National and regional scales are appropriate for establishing overarching policy and monitoring programmes. For example, Natural Resources Wales deploys a strategic approach to the restoration of afforested deep peat⁵⁵.

In terms of integrated rural development, the most appropriate scale is likely to be at the catchment/community level and above.

Meeting environmental objectives for diffuse pollution, water level management, soil conservation, habitat networks and species recovery requires collaboration at the catchment/landscape scale⁵⁶. Numerous examples of this exist within Wales⁵⁷. Knowledge gained from previous initiatives has been applied during the current WRDP and funded under the Technical Assistance budget⁵⁸. Considerable scope exists for tackling a wider range of issues by using the facilitation skills of the Glastir Common Land Development Officers alongside participatory approaches such as the Agriscop programme.

(xi). Are there key actions we can take to deliver short-term 'quick wins'?

(a) Ecosystem Approach and the Environment Bill

Publication of further guidance on the Ecosystem Approach should be accompanied by additional information on exemplar projects.

We have described in our response to question (v) how national and local planning processes can be integrated to realise SLM.

(b) Implementing CAP Reform

⁵⁵ A strategic assessment of the afforested peat resource in Wales (2012)

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-8YYJSU>

⁵⁶ Identification of Delivery Mechanisms for Welsh Top-Tier Agri-Environment Schemes. Countryside and Community Research Unit (CCRI) University of Gloucester (2006). CCW Research Report 06-15.

⁵⁷ Sustainable farming and Environment: Actions towards 2020 – Appendix ii. Accessible at: <http://www.physicalactivityandnutritionwales.org.uk/Documents/740/Sustainable%20farming%20and%20the%20Environment%202020report-e%285%29.pdf>

⁵⁸ An Evaluation of the Commons Development Officer role using LEADER methodology. Commons Vision and University of Gloucester. October 2012. Accessible at: http://www.ccri.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/CDO_Eval-Report_Reduced.pdf

We have described in our response to question (v) how CAP reform can be implemented to promote SLM.

(C) Building the New Wales Rural Development Plan

Advice relevant to SLM and SFM needs to be developed and trialled through an improved knowledge transfer system. For example, Natural Resources Wales is currently working with Farming Connect on guidance for techniques to improve farm yard resilience to more variable weather conditions. Land managers will benefit from a forestry advisory service integrated into a broader-based “Connect” programme.

The current balance between the Entry and Advanced elements of Glastir is unlikely to be optimal for delivering SLM. Greater emphasis on the targeted advanced element may deliver improved outcomes. A complementary part-farm scheme could also improve uptake and delivery. Some elements of Glastir could be delivered at a local level, potentially through contracting-out aspects of the delivery system.

(d). Better Regulation.

Natural Resources Wales believes that farmers should be asked to demonstrate compliance with basic environmental standards consistent with SLM in order to secure direct payments. We want to simplify environmental regulations for land management whilst ensuring basic standards are upheld.

We have defined basic standards for some land management practices that have been endorsed by Welsh Government’s Working Smarter in Agriculture initiative. These basic standards support SLM practise and are aimed at reducing diffuse pollution and conserving our valuable soil resource.

The basic standards focus on:

- Making sure slurry stores are fit for purpose, both in terms of the capacity and quality of the store;
- Making sure application of slurry to land is properly managed;
- Using a nutrient management plan to improve understanding nutrient status and the pH of the soil.
- Making sure animals have controlled access to fixed watering points or use mobile drinkers.
- Making sure there are plans in place for the correct disposal of chemicals, such as used sheep dip or pesticides.

Cross-compliance requirements should be better aligned to deliver key compliance standards, for example The Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil Regulations (SSAFO) could form part of the requirements, but such change is likely to require agreement at EU level.

(xii). Are there actions we should be taking for the long-term?

Monitoring Progress towards SLM

A review of existing and future monitoring programmes should identify what data can contribute to an appropriate baseline for SLM and what indices are needed to assess progress towards SLM.

Applying the Ecosystem Approach

Research is needed to improve our understanding of ecosystem condition, the delivery and value of ecosystem services, and practical ways of applying the ecosystem approach. Mapping ecosystems and their services will help establish consistent presentation methods that make evidence accessible to practitioners.

Providing Adequate Incentives

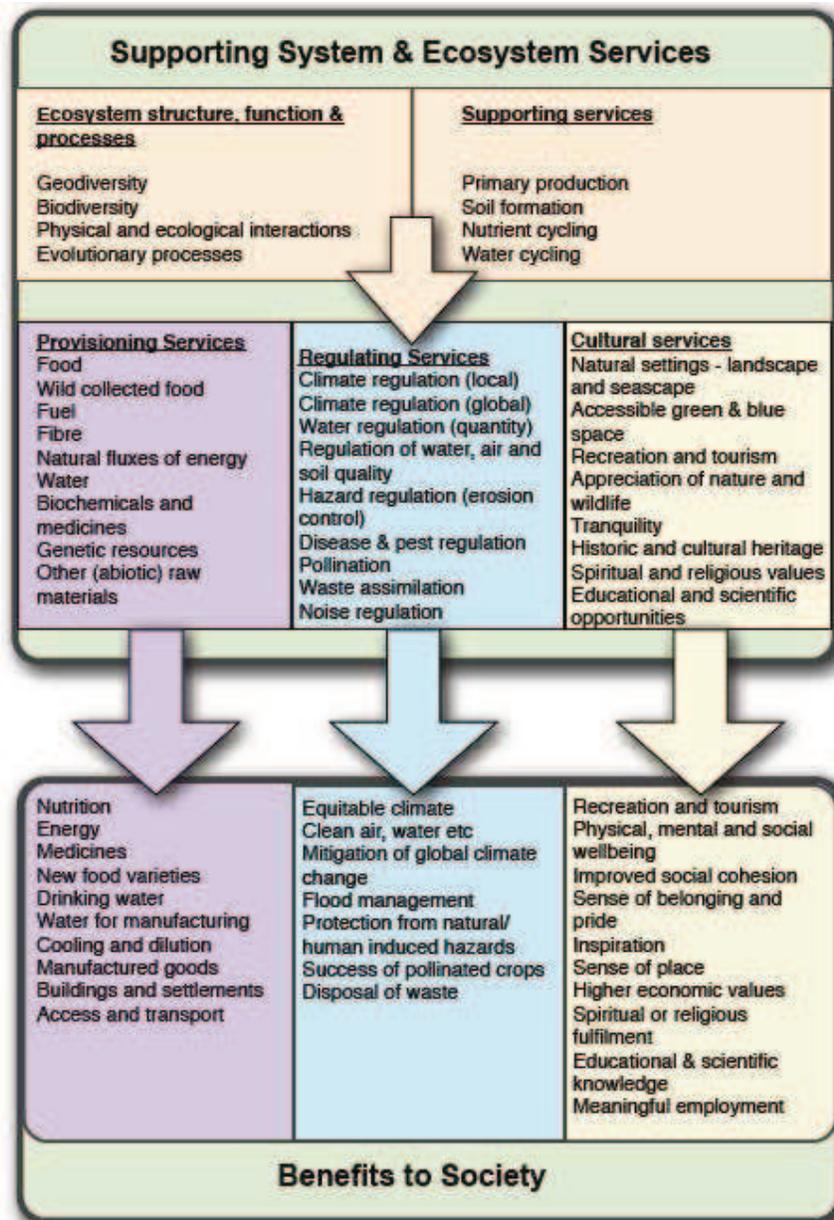
The approach of using market-based Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) to support SLM needs development. Communicating and embedding in policy the linkage between SLM, ecosystem services and economic and social sustainability should be an over-arching priority.

Delivering SLM through the Ecosystem Approach will take time. In the short term, a combination of agri-environment schemes, market interventions and targeted subsidies will be needed.

**Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru /Natural Resources Wales
September 2013**

Appendix 1

Reference List of Ecosystem Services developed for use by Natural Resources Wales ⁵⁹



⁵⁹ Natural Resources Wales (2013). Draft Ecosystem Approach Framework.

Document is Restricted



ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO SUSTAINABLE LAND
MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN SUBMISSION BY CLA CYMRU

October 2013

1. INTRODUCTION

The Country Land & Business Association (CLA) represents approximately 4,000 members in Wales. Our members both live and work within rural areas; they operate a wide range of businesses including residential, agricultural, tourism and commercial ventures – at the last count the CLA represents some 250 different types of rural businesses. CLA members own or manage approximately half the rural land in Wales including edge of settlement locations and some urban portfolios.

2. SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT

Sustainable land management involves the sustainable management of all land, including the agricultural and forestry sectors, whilst safeguarding ecosystem resilience. Farm and other land-based rural businesses must be economically, as well as environmentally and socially sustainable.

A vital consideration in achieving sustainable land management is to adopt a whole farm approach. Farms are integrated businesses. Land management includes

agriculture, forestry, environmental service delivery, tourism, recreation, food and forest product processing and marketing, sporting shooting and property management. There are strong interactions between these activities and there are strong and complex relationships between the environmental variables

Ecosystem Services

Sustainable land management is best delivered through an ecosystem approach. Ecosystem services are a broader range of environmental services that land managers provide, or could provide, to society than simply the saleable products of farming, forestry and rural recreation. These services are characterised as: provisioning (food, timber, fibre, water); regulating (carbon sequestration, water purification, air, soil erosion, disease outbreaks); supporting (soil formation, nutrient cycling); and cultural services (recreation and tourism, landscape, wildlife). Together all these services of the natural environment are vital for human well-being. The Welsh countryside is managed primarily for provisioning services (food and timber).

Most Welsh ecosystem services are, and can only be, provided by farmers and foresters. Historically, the costs of managing the ecosystem services falls on farmers and foresters, yet the main benefits farmers and foresters can realise is from the marketed services such as food and timber. It is therefore hardly surprising that the non-marketed, or public good and services, are under-provided. Society wants them, but has few ways of paying for them. This is a classic example of market failure and is pervasive in rural land management.

A sustainable living standard will not be achieved by dependence on selling agricultural products alone. Land managers should not be expected to cross-subsidise the delivery of environmental public goods and services from their market returns. It is therefore necessary to ensure that proper public payment for the value of public goods and services delivered is guaranteed.

We need to find new ways to pay for all the habitats, biodiversity and other environmental benefits that society wants and which only farmers and landowners can provide. Diversification of revenue sources is key to sustainable land management. Newer opportunities come from selling other ecosystem services, such as renewable energy from biomass, wind and hydro; water and climate protection by storing water and carbon and by purifying water, and by providing biodiversity and cultural landscapes services. The critical requirements are to develop the right frameworks for public and private payment for more of these non-market services, and to ensure that rural infrastructure and the planning system support rural economic development.

Farming businesses currently receive the majority of their funding for managing the environmental measures on the farm through Government funding agri-environment schemes. The next CAP reform, due to commence in 2015, will see this pot of money significantly lowered. It is vital that opportunities for supporting ecosystem services are explored beyond such schemes, in order to move to a source of private funding which provide rewards greater than income foregone and can be relied on in the longer term.

The Welsh Government should look to drive action at a local and landscape scale to develop mechanisms to improve the delivery of ecosystem services. It is imperative that the Government engages with landowners at the earliest opportunity.

Core Principles

Rural land managers have been practicing sustainable development for generations. In essence, the vast majority of landowners want to hand on to their successors an asset that is at least as economically, environmentally, and socially valuable as it was when they took it on. This strikes us as going to the core of what sustainable development means in practice.

It is very difficult to envisage any land manager being successful without practicing sustainable development. The overwhelming majority of them need to derive an income from their land and are keen for their successors to continue to do so too.

As such every land manager needs to ensure that his exploitation of the land does not result in it been harmed over the long term. He/she needs to ensure, for example, that good soil and water quality is retained so successors can continue to farm sustainably.

Similarly, much of what the land provides can only be delivered over the long term. As a result, the more prudent landowners undertake activities that will not yield any results in their own lifetime, but which will provide an income for their children or grandchildren. The planting of woodlands and creation of watercourses would be common examples of this.

The CLA believes that a number of core principles underlie sustainable land management, which can help provide solutions to environmental problems. These are that society should:

- take an inter-generational time view
- in a science-based approach
- engaging the voluntary participation of those affected
- using measures proportional to the issue/ problem
- where possible, relying on a decentralised approach
- working with natural cycles
- and do all this with a presumption of private property rights and responsibilities.

3. CLIMATE CHANGE

The Welsh Government's Climate Change Strategy sets an annual 3% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in Wales. To give full effect to delivering this target, the Welsh Government should establish a long-term land management policy to mitigate climate change.

The land-based contributions to mitigation are to:

- reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions
- store carbon in soils and trees
- help energy substitution by producing land-based renewable energy
- help material substitution by enabling greater use of timber and its products to replace more GHG-emitting building materials.

Managing ecosystems at a landscape scale will be integral to encouraging effective adaptation to the effects of climate change on species populations and distribution, through the linking of habitats and features across the agricultural landscape.

Greenhouse Gas Action Plan

The CLA and other organisations representing the agricultural industry in England have signed up to a voluntary Greenhouse Gas Action Plan (GHGAP) setting out how the industry will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by three million tonnes of CO₂ equivalents from 2018–2022 without compromising domestic production.

The Action Plan focuses on how farmers, regardless of their farming system, can become more efficient to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions while making cost savings per unit of production. The Plan aims to make the most of existing initiatives such as the "Industry Roadmaps" and nutrient management ("Tried & Tested"), and will report on the progress made by farmers and land managers as they improve their use of energy, nutrients and their own carbon footprint. The Welsh Assembly may wish to consider adopting a similar initiative for Wales.

In the longer term farmers and land managers will have to do more than improve efficiency to meet the emissions targets and will have to consider how actual emissions could be reduced which would involve land use change, for example, planting trees .

The Welsh Government should consider how best to encourage efficiency savings for agriculture and what mechanisms should be put in place to properly incentivise and reward tree planting.

Peat Management

The stock of carbon stored in peatland is a significant environmental asset, with 400 million tonnes of carbon stored in peatlands in Wales' uplands. It is essential the appropriate management techniques for maintaining peatland are introduced to allow land based businesses to help moderate climate change.

Importantly peatland restoration projects in Wales have the potential to generate carbon credits for the GHG benefits they deliver through the voluntary market. This could be a new source of funding for land managers if companies are prepared to buy credits from domestic peat carbon projects.

For this to be viable, companies would need to have complete confidence that a specific restoration project would deliver quantifiable GHG benefits. The Welsh Government needs to take steps to facilitate this approach.

4. ADVICE

Advice is an essential element when implementing environmental schemes, to ensure ownership of the scheme and best placement of options. The Welsh Government should consider how to ensure advice is provided on local priorities for agri-environment. This level of support will be extremely valuable as we move into the next period of CAP.

5. BIODIVERSITY

CLA fully supports the desire to improve biodiversity, but policies to achieve this must recognise the need to produce food and run other land based businesses efficiently

The Welsh Government should ensure that the right balance is secured. This can be achieved by:

- acknowledging that biodiversity cannot be so heavily reliant on Pillar 2 agri–environment payments, which are already facing drastic cuts and are the source of the most targeted funding for on farm environmental measures.
- exploring the potential for market based solutions such as biodiversity offsetting
- ensuring agri–environment schemes continue to be flexible and tailored to farm level whilst remaining accessible to all
- acknowledging that whilst protected sites, such as SSSIs (14% of SSSIs in Wales are in the uplands), have been effective at stopping further rare habitat destruction, their restrictive nature often increases the cost of management of sites, resulting in economically unviable management for farmers. Designations must work with a changing landscape, so as not to restrict the land use within them solely to management for the environment, which in itself is unsustainable.

6. PLANNING

The planning system must provide for a stable and flexible regime that can deliver quicker, less expensive decisions while taking a balanced approach to the concept of sustainable development by:

- promoting and encouraging a mix of development in rural areas
- providing for a sufficient infrastructure of employment sites, housing, transport, public and private services to support the long–term sustainability of rural communities
- recognising that environmental stewardship is best achieved with the willing and active commitment of landowners and land managers
- recognising the changes in land use that will occur as the implications of climate change become more apparent.

7. REFORM OF THE EU'S COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP)

The CAP is a main policy driver influencing land managers. It is vital that reform of the CAP results in a direct payment system that supports land managers in adopting sustainable land management. The CLA would go further in advocating greater support for upland farms.

We need a CAP that both provides a level playing field for farmers across the EU and which recognises all the work farmers do for biodiversity and the natural environment.

European direct payments received under the CAP are channelled in very different ways through different EU Member States; The CLA welcomes this flexibility to be able to reward environmentally sustainable land management in Wales; however the Welsh Government must ensure that payment support does not have attached conditions that go significantly beyond those of other Member States. To do so could jeopardise the competitiveness and fairness of the CAP for Welsh landowners and managers.

8. BIOTECHNOLOGY

Biotechnology provides a much broader application of science than GM; GM is just one of many areas comprised by biotechnology. Genetic Modification provides one of the most significant tools in delivering sustainable land management allowing increased yields, healthier livestock and environmental protection.

The livestock sector arguably has more to gain from biotechnology, where genetic-based research is preventing disease, improving overall welfare and reducing input costs. The CLA argues that this sector's existing work must be encouraged and supported by Welsh Government for it to flourish.

The UK has one of the best traditions of agricultural technology research in the world, and the Welsh Government needs to get on board and champion our excellence in the sector.

9. BARRIERS

The CLA believes the principal barriers to achieving sustainable land management goals are:

- an economic system that undervalues the role of the natural environment
- land managers access to relevant information and advice and knowledge transfer
- the ability to attract new sources of funding
- provision of a reliable, affordable, high speed internet connection
- the planning system
- science led approaches taken to any decision on restricting or withdrawing chemical inputs.

Red Tape

One of the key constraints in the rural economy, both in terms of agricultural and non-agricultural businesses, is the increasing impact of Government red tape. While it is recognised that Government efforts to reduce the negative impact of red tape, it is still the case that it is one of the greatest barriers to realising the potential of the rural economy. According to the Commission for Rural Communities, the failure to fully exploit this potential costs the rural economy some £361 billion per year.

Present and future efforts that focus on securing savings through the greater use of digital are laudable. However, such efforts fail to realise that for many who live and work in rural areas still have no access to an effective and affordable broadband connection. The CLA believes that if red tape is to be reduced through this mechanism, those who are impacted the most must be able to utilise a suitable digital connection

Regulatory burdens

The CLA remains concerned by the regulatory barriers introduced concerning the use of plant protection products, as a result of limited scientific evidence. Ensuring that a sustainable long term approach is taken to managing chemical inputs, such as pesticides and herbicides as part of land management in Wales is important. Achieving the right balance of biodiversity in respect to areas of fauna, foliage and grassland requires proactive decision making from land managers. Land managers must be able to have as many tools at their disposal to prevent unwanted encroachment of scrub or invasive species such as bracken. Controlling these requires a thorough long term management approach from landowners and the Welsh Government.



Our Ref: GH/JH/SAJ/Cons.

5 September 2013

Mr Alun Davidson
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Dear Mr Davidson

Re: The National Assembly for Wales' Environment and Sustainability Committee inquiry into Sustainable Land Management

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the above consultation.

Hybu Cig Cymru - Meat Promotion Wales (HCC) is the industry-led organisation responsible for the development, promotion and marketing of Welsh red meat. HCC's stakeholder representatives implement, on behalf of all Welsh farmers and other key industry participants, a strategic plan to develop profitable and sustainable markets for Welsh red meat to derive benefit for all in the supply-chain.

It is because of the custodial efforts of livestock farmers that Wales has such a diverse rural environment that is rich in wildlife, is visitor-friendly and offers a network of protected areas that is carefully managed by responsible grazing. The total value of the sector to the Welsh economy, taking into account the agricultural, processing and retail sectors, is estimated by HCC to be more than £1 billion per annum. Welsh livestock farmers also underpin the visitor economy, which supports 172,000 jobs and contributes £6.2 bn in Gross Domestic Product.

The Welsh Red Meat Roadmap which was developed by HCC in 2011 highlights that Sustainable Land Management is an everyday consideration for our stakeholders and it is important that in considering this subject, account is taken of the importance of improving the opportunities for farmers, landowners and the general public to live and work in a sustainable environment.

With regard to the general questions raised HCC gives the following responses.

What do we want sustainable land management in Wales to look like and what outcomes do we want to deliver in the short, medium and longer term?

Defining success criteria is challenging. However, from HCC's perspective it would like to see the maintenance and enhancement of a sustainable but productive landscape that enables farmers to be profitable while providing safe and healthy food. Co-operation is required across all sectors to achieve the end goal of a sustainable industry within a sustainable environment. HCC would like to see more information on how the Welsh Government's plans for natural resource management within the land management sector will create opportunities and enhance sustainable development.

It is important that land use planning is complimentary to environmental management planning and it is likely that this should be delivered more effectively by Natural Resources Wales as a single body if the new single organisation is managed effectively. Through an ecosystem approach HCC would expect that due consideration is made to all planning requests and the business needs are given equal importance to the environmental needs.

What are the barriers preventing us from delivering these outcomes now?

The Welsh Red Meat Roadmap, published by HCC in 2011, identifies criteria that will move the industry in a more sustainable direction and goes on to suggest how these criteria can be achieved and monitored. The roadmap considers challenges such as the industry's approach to greenhouse gasses, carbon footprint, water quality and use, biodiversity, countryside management and carbon conservation and sequestration and their solutions. The roadmap cautions additional drivers are likely to impact on environmental policies including disease threats (e.g. bovine TB), the ageing farming population, land prices and the CAP Reform review. Research suggests that agricultural operations currently contribute towards Wales' total greenhouse gas emissions although it is very difficult to accurately quantify as measuring greenhouse gas emissions at farm level is far from an exact science. Carbon footprinting tools are available and will be highly valuable for assessing emissions on the farm but they are not able to take into account certain variations.

How do we overcome these challenges?

As highlighted in the Welsh Red Meat Roadmap, immediate opportunities for improving sustainability on farm include clever manipulation of ruminant diets, genetic improvement of livestock, breeding for the marketplace, grassland and forage management and control of waste. It is simplistic to believe that falling livestock numbers in Wales could in any way be a positive for reducing climate change impacts. Increasing demand for quality red meat products, particularly from emerging countries, will be met by displaced, and possibly less sustainable production, whilst having an extremely adverse effect on the economy of Wales.

The upland soils of Wales are recognised as being important carbon sinks and their continued management in a sensitive manner by farmers, combining biodiversity and production outputs, is essential to conserving and increasing carbon stocks. Welsh farmers will need to further respond positively to the challenges and opportunities offered by the declining availability of valuable resources, such as water, oil and phosphorus. On farm, renewable energies are becoming increasingly attractive to farmers in Wales as a means of improving sustainability on-farm however, this is often not achievable due to poor infrastructure and planning constraints.

Reducing the levels of food waste in the red meat supply chain is an area on which HCC is focusing on through its recent initiative on *Extending the Shelf-Life of PGI Welsh Lamb*. More widely reducing food waste in the home is an area which requires further consumer encouragement and retailers and other industry organisations can contribute towards educating and informing consumers. HCC is collecting and analysing data to calculate farm carbon footprints to provide farmers with the most accurate tools available to offer accurate benchmarking, a snapshot assessment of

greenhouse gas emissions and provide a set of reliable standards for sustainability. As referred to previously, through an ecosystem approach HCC would expect that due consideration is made to all planning requests and the business needs are given equal importance to the environmental needs.

In addition to addressing climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions other issues, such as water quality and use, biodiversity and countryside management are of key importance. Agriculture plays a strong part in carbon conservation and sequestration. Apart from reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the entire red meat supply chain is positioned to improve on areas such as reducing water and energy usage through targeted audits and planning, preventing water and air pollution by addressing areas where potential incidents may arise, enhancing biodiversity through maintenance and improvements to habitats and reducing impacts on these habitats, and enhancing the Welsh countryside and limiting negative impacts to important ecological and aesthetic areas.

Farmers are not alone in adapting to the changes needed. Organisations within the natural environment land management sector can deliver production and cost benefits, as well as biodiversity and environmental gains, by working in partnership with producers.

What are the main policy drivers and how can these be shaped to overcome these challenges?

Reform of the Common Agriculture Policy will be a key policy driver in terms of Sustainable Land Management in Wales to 2020 and beyond. The CAP includes the aim of viable food production to guarantee long term food security for EU citizens and to contribute to growing world food demand alongside sustainable management of natural resources and climate action. Alongside these aims the key challenges for sustainable food production in Wales include increases in fuel, energy and other input costs. Also, responding to political and environmental change, adapting to changing market conditions, embracing innovation and adopting technical best practice, and improving overall business management. Although increases in market prices in recent years will have increased confidence in the long term sustainability of the Welsh red meat industry, these are driven by a shortening of UK, European and worldwide supplies of red meat. At the core, profitability remains the biggest challenge and there is a need to improve the overall confidence in the industry and encourage future investment.

Structural funds, including the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2014 – 2020, will be key vehicles in assisting the continued development of the red meat industry subject to a focus on improving efficiency, reducing resource use, enhancing animal health and welfare, and developing the business by targeting improved efficiency and profitability thereby contributing to a sustainable future.

The Welsh Red Meat Roadmap addresses the declining availability of resources and the potential impact on Welsh agriculture. In the not-so-distant future, Welsh farmers will need to respond to the challenges and opportunities offered by the declining availability of valuable resources, such as oil and phosphorus. It will be essential for individual farmers to review their activities to see where savings and improved efficiencies can be made.

Water quality and usage is another key driver. The Water Framework Directive exists to manage the water environment. Natural Resources Wales has produced River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) which set out objectives for water bodies within each river basin and how they are to be achieved at each of the River Basin Districts (RBDs) in Wales.

In terms of sustainable land management in Wales, the Welsh Red Meat Roadmap identifies an important resource in terms of carbon conservation and sequestration. The upland soils of Wales are recognised as being important carbon sinks and their continued management in a sensitive manner, combining biodiversity and production outputs, will be essential to conserving and increasing carbon stocks. Habitats of Principle Importance (i.e. Section 42 Habitats) including heathland, acid grassland, bogs, fen and ancient woodland are of particular importance, alongside permanent grassland pastures and forestry plantations. Extensive grazing is vital to restore peat based Section 42 Habitats to a state where they are active and sequestering atmospheric carbon, rather than releasing carbon to the atmosphere and losing peat as sediment into rivers and streams. Likewise, appropriate grazing of open areas within forestry, which could become over rank, will reduce the risk of unintentional fires and the resultant release of atmospheric carbon. There is still considerable discrepancy between figures estimating how much carbon is being released or trapped by the complex processes by which carbon is exchanged between the land and atmosphere.

In doing so, we wish in particular (though not exclusively) to gather your views on:

How we define the key ecosystems and ecosystem services in a way that makes sense for Wales?

How do we develop a baseline from which to measure progress? This includes how we collect, coordinate and use data to support sustainable land management in Wales.

HCC has previously welcomed the aims of the Welsh Government document *A Living Wales – a New Framework for our Environment, our Countryside and our Seas*. HCC considers that by assessing the issue from a more holistic and broader view it is likely to result in an outcome that is healthier for the whole ecosystem. The document considered developing the concept of local resource management planning for natural resources to provide a simpler approach for stakeholders. HCC considers managing natural resources locally to be a much more practical system that allows local issues to be considered in a fair and appropriate manner. The original aim to simplify current systems was also welcomed by HCC to make it easier for stakeholders to ensure that natural resources are protected while they continue to carry out their business operations. The document also considered streamlining regulatory regimes to achieve better outcomes for the environment and simpler systems for people. HCC welcomed the simplification of systems which is likely to improve the desire by all parties to work together to the benefit of our natural resources.

HCC considers that Natural Resources Wales is in a strong position to collect, coordinate and use data to support sustainable land management in Wales with input from stakeholders including industry organisations.

Collecting, coordinating and using data to support sustainable land management in Wales, including developing interactive geographical information systems to make information more accessible and engage people more widely, is considered by HCC to be a key consideration.

What incentives can we provide land managers to develop sustainable practices, and in particular, any new sources of investment we can attract to support these?

Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has been characterised by the 'greening' agenda which, along with a reduction in the overall budget, has driven much of the discussions and negotiations now reaching an advanced stage for the new policy for the period 2014 - 2020.

The European Commission recognises the constitutional arrangements within the UK and has agreed that Wales will decide how the CAP reform changes are implemented in this country without needing to accommodate the wishes of the rest of the UK.

HCC considers that the Welsh red meat industry needs to be in a position to cope with and adapt to changes in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), specifically in relation to reductions in support which will impact directly on farm incomes. This also needs to be achieved alongside a requirement to provide red meat for an ever increasing world population whilst maintaining the environment and landscape.

In supporting the industry to adapt and change HCC considers that the focus should be to improve productivity efficiency (thereby increasing quality supply) and to increase demand for Welsh red meat products (thereby increasing sales and returns). It is the view of HCC that a profitable, efficient, sustainable and innovative industry requires support to maximise sustainable production efficiencies by increasing the number of progeny reared and the growth rates. Farm management practices which can help maximise sustainable output include improved use of grassland and forage, improved utilisation of animal genetics and reduced disease incidence. Healthy and well-nourished livestock utilise forage more effectively and grow at optimum rates.

How we ensure that our sustainable land management policies maintain vibrant rural communities and attract new entrants into the land-based sector?

By ensuring that Sustainable Land Management is implemented in a way which enables and supports farmers to be profitable while providing safe and healthy food policies, will by default contribute positively to the maintenance and enhancement of vibrant rural communities.

Sustainable agriculture promotes greater stability in the rural economy.

It is the view of HCC that the CAP should be implemented in Wales in a way which assists new entrants to the industry. Any payment should complement and enhance delivery of the existing Young Entrants Support Scheme (YESS) in Wales. Where applicable, support should be provided as part of a route towards individual business succession planning and implementation. The approach should not be limited to young farmers and priority should be extended to include new entrants and those wishing to expand sustainable production.

The most appropriate geographical scale(s) at which we should be delivering sustainable land management policies and practices in Wales?

As stated earlier in this response, HCC considers the development of a national resource management plan useful to steer the overall direction. However, managing natural resources locally provides a practical system that allows local issues to be considered in a fair and appropriate manner.

If there are key actions we can take to deliver short-term 'quick wins' and the actions we should be taking for the long-term?

It is considered that CAP reform is expected to pose a major challenge to the Welsh red meat industry in the short term as Welsh producers will need to come to terms with the full implications for their businesses of changes in European subsidies and their subsequent impact on regulatory burden and environmental management. HCC considers it vital that CAP Reform is implemented in Wales in a way which recognises that livestock farming is not only suited to the climate and geography of Wales, but is the only economic activity in rural areas that can contribute to maintaining the attractive landscape, thereby supporting tourism. Food security remains a clear priority with the world population increasing exponentially.

As stated earlier in this response, HCC considers streamlining regulatory regimes is likely to achieve better outcomes for the environment and simpler systems for people.

It is also considered important that land use planning is complimentary to environmental management planning and that due consideration is made to all planning requests, with business needs given equal importance to the environmental needs.

In conclusion HCC considers therefore that stakeholders in all sectors of the agricultural and processing community have positively adapted to the demands for a sustainable way of life and are already playing a prominent and proactive part in the safeguarding of the environment. HCC would like to stress the importance to policy makers of remembering that the Welsh environment not only contributes to the social well-being and leisure activities of communities but also needs to sustain them financially. With this in mind it is essential that Sustainable Land Management includes the interests of businesses as without a healthy rural economy it will be impossible for Wales to enhance its standing as a vibrant, sustainable economy.

We hope that these comments are useful in your deliberations and would appreciate being kept informed of any further developments in this area.

Yours sincerely



Gwyn Howells
Chief Executive

Document is Restricted

Environment and Sustainability Committee

Meeting Venue: Committee Room 3 – Senedd

Meeting date: Wednesday, 15 January 2014

Meeting time: 09:30 – 12:30

This meeting can be viewed on Senedd TV at:

http://www.senedd.tv/archiveplayer.jsf?v=en_400000_15_01_2014&t=0&l=en

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Concise Minutes:

Assembly Members:

Dafydd Elis-Thomas (Chair)
Mick Antoniw
Russell George
Llyr Gruffydd
Julie James
Julie Morgan
William Powell
Antoinette Sandbach
Joyce Watson

Witnesses:

James Byrne, Wildlife Trusts Wales
Arfon Williams, RSBP Cymru
Julian Atkins, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Geraint Jones, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
Chris Lindley, Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Paul Sinnadurai, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Annie Smith, RSPB Cymru

Committee Staff:

Alun Davidson (Clerk)
Catherine Hunt (Deputy Clerk)
Elfyn Henderson (Researcher)

TRANSCRIPT

View the [meeting transcript](#).

1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

1.1 There were no apologies or substitutions.

1.2 The Chair paid tribute to Morgan Parry on behalf of the Committee.

2 Sustainable Land Management: RSPB Cymru and Wildlife Trusts Wales

2.1 The witnesses responded to questions from members of the Committee.

2.2 Annie Smith agreed to provide a note with further details on her comments on the definitions contained in the Environment Bill White Paper.

3 Sustainable Land Management: National Parks Wales and The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

3.1 The witnesses responded to questions from members of the Committee.

4 Environment Bill White Paper: National Parks Wales and The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

4.1 The witnesses responded to questions from members of the Committee.

5 Papers to note

5.1 The Committee noted the minutes.

Letter from the Minister for Natural Resources and Food – Common Agricultural Policy:
Transfer of budgets between pillars

5.2 The Committee noted the paper.

Letter from the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport – Proposals for the M4
around Newport

5.3 The Committee noted the paper and agreed to seek further information on the data.

Agenda Item 5a



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth
Minister for Local Government and Government Business

Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM,
Chair, Environment and
Sustainability Committee,
National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff Bay,
CARDIFF
CF99 1NA

20 January 2014

Dear Dafydd,

Future Generations, Planning and Environment Bills

Thank you for your letter of 19 December 2013, concerning the interdependencies between the Future Generations, Planning and Environment Bills.

The Future Generations Bill will help achieve a much needed step change in the delivery of outcomes for people and communities in Wales. It will ensure named public service organisations focus on shared goals which seek to deliver a sustainable and fairer Wales for the long term. These goals will help address the generational challenges by expressing the long term economic, social and environmental well-being of Wales. This emphasis on making changes for the long term is central to a number of our forthcoming legislative proposals.

The Environment Bill will provide a modern statutory framework for the sustainable management of natural resources by legislating for a more joined-up and proactive process. At its heart is therefore the application of sustainable development to the management of our natural resources and in particular the role of Natural Resources Wales. The policy links between the Bills are further complemented by practical proposals, as illustrated by the suggested role for NRW as part of the proposed Advisory Council, which will ensure the sustainable management of our natural resources is at the heart of the proposed Future Generations Commissioner's periodic report on behalf of Future Generations in Wales.

The Planning Bill is intended to secure the reforms needed to deliver an improved, more consistent and timely planning service. The land use planning system is an important delivery mechanism for a significant number of Welsh Government policies, including on the economy, housing and heritage, as well as sustainable development and the environment.

The three pieces of legislation are therefore interlinked and complementary. There is a robust governance and programme and project management framework for the delivery of these three Bills to ensure their development is coordinated and joined-up. Specific attention has been paid to ensuring the opportunity for the development of complementary provisions is fully explored and considered.

Formal programme management arrangements are in place for each of these Bills and the Senior Responsible Officers (SRO) for each Bill sit on the respective programme boards. In addition there are a number of arrangements at an operational level which support consideration of Bill inter-relationships and dependencies.

The principle of ensuring joined-up working has also been applied to external engagement activities: several stakeholders are represented on both the Natural Resources Reference Group and the Future Generations Reference Group, for example Wales Environment Link, to enable discussion and understanding of how the Bills will work together. The Future Generations Bill has a two-monthly Bill reference and advisory group chaired by the Commissioner for Sustainable Futures with representatives from a broad range of external stakeholders, including the CBI, Natural Resources Wales and Local Authorities.

You also asked about the overarching governance arrangements which exist for ensuring coordination of the legislative programme. We have established a Legislative Programme Board, which has a central role in the overall management and monitoring of the legislative programme as part of the wider Programme of Government. It provides guidance and assurance, bringing together senior officials from across the organisation to ensure the coordination and joining up of the Government's cross cutting priorities. It provides a quarterly report on the management of the legislative programme to Cabinet.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Lesley Griffiths'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth
Minister for Local Government and Government Business



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth
Minister for Local Government and Government Business

Yr Arglwydd Dafydd Elis-Thomas
AC,
Cadeirydd, Pwyllgor yr
Amgylchedd a Chynaliadwyedd,
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru,
Bae Caerdydd,
CAERDYDD
CF99 1NA

20 Ionawr 2014

Annwyl Dafydd,

Bil Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol, y Bil Cynllunio a Bil yr Amgylchedd

Diolch am eich llythyr dyddiedig 19 Rhagfyr 2013. Ynddo roeddech yn sôn am y gyddibyniaeth rhwng Bil Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol, y Bil Cynllunio a Bil yr Amgylchedd.

Bydd Bil Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol yn helpu i gyflawni'r gwelliant sylweddol sydd ei angen o ran sicrhau canlyniadau i bobl a chymunedau Cymru. Bydd yn sicrhau bod sefydliadau penodol yn y gwasanaeth cyhoeddus yn canolbwyntio ar nodau cyffredin, gyda'r bwriad o greu Cymru decach a mwy cynaliadwy ar gyfer cenedlaethau'r dyfodol. Bydd y nodau hyn yn helpu i fynd i'r afael â'r heriau hynny sy'n para o un genhedlaeth i'r llall, drwy dacio lles economaidd, amgylcheddol a chymdeithasol Cymru yn y tymor hir. Mae'r pwyslais hwn ar wreud newidiadau er lles y tymor hir yn ganolog i nifer o'r cynigion deddfwriaethol sydd gennym yn yr arfaeth.

Bydd Bil yr Amgylchedd yn darparu fframwaith statudol fodern ar gyfer rheoli adnoddau naturiol yn gynaliadwy, drwy ddeddfu er mwyn creu proses ragweithiol a mwy cydgyssylltiedig. Felly mae cymhwyso egwyddorion datblygu cynaliadwy at reoli ein hadnoddau naturiol, yn enwedig rôl Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru yn hynny o beth, yn greiddiol i'r Bil. Drwy ategu'r cysylltiadau polisi rhwng y Biliau â chynigion ymarferol, er enghraifft rôl bosibl Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru ar y Cyngor Cynghori arfaethedig, gellir sicrhau y bydd rheoli ein hadnoddau naturiol yn gynaliadwy yn elfen greiddiol o adroddiadau achlysurol Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol ar ran Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol yng Nghymru.

Bwriad y Bil Cynllunio yw gwneud y newidiadau angenrheidiol i sicrhau gwasanaeth cynllunio gwell, prydlon a mwy cyson. Mae'r system gynllunio defnydd tir yn fecanwaith pwysig i gyflawni nifer fawr o bolisiau Llywodraeth Cymru, gan gynnwys y rheini sy'n ymwneud â'r economi, tai, treftadaeth, yr amgylchedd a datblygu cynaliadwy.

Felly, mae'r tri darn o ddeddfwriaeth wedi'u cydgyssylltu ac yn cydweddu. I gyflawni gwaith y tri Bil hwn, ac i sicrhau y datblygwr hwy mewn ffordd gydllynol, mae fframwaith gadarn yn ei le ar gyfer llywodraethu a rheoli rhaglenni a phrosiectau. Rhoddwyd sylw penodol i sicrhau bod cyffe i archwilio ac ystyried datblygu darpariaethau sy'n ategu'r tri Bil.

Yn achos pob un o'r Biliau hyn ceir trefniadau rheoli rhaglenni ffurfiol ac mae'r Uwch Swyddogion Cyfrifol ar gyfer y Biliau yn eistedd ar fyrddau'r rhaglenni priodol. Hefyd, mae nifer o drefniadau ar lefel weithredol sy'n cefnogi'r gwaith o ystyried y berthynas a'r gyd-ddibyniaeth sydd rhwng y Biliau.

Mae'r gweithgareddau ymgysylltu allanol hefyd wedi'u seilio ar yr egwyddor o sicrhau ffordd mwy cydgyssylltiedig o weithio : mae nifer o randdeiliaid wedi'u cynrychioli ar y Grŵp Cyfeirio Adnoddau Naturiol a Grŵp Cyfeirio Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol, er enghraifft. Cyswllt Amgylchedd Cymru, er mwyn trafod a deall sut y bydd y Biliau'n ategu ei gilydd. Ym Mil Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol mae darpariaeth ar gyfer grŵp cynghori a chyfeirio , fydd yn cyfarfod bob deufis o dan gadeiryddiaeth Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol a chyda chynrychiolaeth eang o blith rhanddeiliaid allanol, gan gynnwys y CBI, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru ac Awdurdodau Lleol.

Yn eich llythyr, roeddech hefyd yn gofyn am y trefniadau llywodraethu cyffredinol i gydllynu'r rhaglen ddeddfwriaethol. I'r perwyll hwn, rydym wedi sefydlu Bwrdd y Rhaglen Ddeddfwriaethol a chanddo rôl ganolog yn rheoli a monitro'r rhaglen ddeddfwriaethol yn gyffredinol, fel rhan o'r Rhaglen Lywodraethu. Mae'n rhoi arweiniad a sicrwydd, drwy ddod ag uwch-swyddogion ledled y sefydliad ynghyd i gydllynu a chydgyssylltu blaenoriaethau trawsbynciol y llywodraeth.. Mae'r Bwrdd hefyd yn rhoi adroddiad chwarterol i'r Cabinet ar reolir rhaglen ddeddfwriaethol.



Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth
Minister for Local Government and Government Business

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau
Petitions Committee

Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM
Chair of the Environment and
Sustainability Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Our ref: P-04-343

20 December 2013

Dear

As you may be aware the Petitions Committee is currently considering the following petition, which collected 156 signatures:

We call upon the Welsh Government to examine ways to prevent the destruction of amenities on common land, including for example the Marian Common in Llangoed, Ynys Môn.

I enclose a copy of correspondence received in light of a recent evidence session with the petitioner and a link to the transcript of the evidence session for more information.

<http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/documents/s21880/11%20November%202013.html?CT=2#p343>

As this falls within the remit of your Committee we wanted to make you are aware of the petition so that the Committee could consider its implications when considering forthcoming legislation that may impact on the issues it raises.

All information relating to the Petitions Committee's consideration of the petition can be found at:

<http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=2329>

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Caerdydd / Cardiff
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Ffôn / Tel: 029 2089 8242
E-bost / Email: William.powell@wales.gov.uk

Additionally the Committee agreed to:

- write to the Police Commissioner for North Wales and the Chief Constable seeking their views on the apparent illegality on the common; and
- write to the National Farmers Union and Farmers Union of Wales seeking their views on the issues raised by the petitioners.

If you want any further information on this petition, please contact the Committee Clerk at stephen.george@wales.gov.uk or on (029) 2089 8242.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Powell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W' and a distinct 'P'.

William Powell AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair

Enclosure: Correspondence from the petitioner.

P-04-343 Prevent the destruction of amenities on common land - Anglesey- Correspondence form the petitioner to the Clerking team, 10.09.2013

Dear Sian

Thank you for forwarding a copy of Carl Sargeant's letter to William Powell AM, Chair Petitions Committee.

The comments are duly noted, but the fact remains that whilst Section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 should, in theory, prevent the resurfacing of the land, it does not prevent the destruction of vegetation and the modification of the landscape for vehicular use: basically, anyone can cut and drive large dirt tracks across any common land with impunity. In the worst case scenarios, little of the natural heritage would be left for the enjoyment of local communities. Furthermore, under the 1832 Act, if no greater protection is provided for common land, in this particular instance, it is likely that 'rights of access' will be applied for after twenty years and then, of course, vehicular trespass will be legitimised. We would welcome improved statutory laws to protect the common land in Wales. Common land should be for the benefit and use of the whole community and should also enhance the experience of visitors to Wales.

We feel that we must repeat what we have stated in previous correspondence to the committee, that Petition P-04-343 shows the strength of feeling over the destruction of amenities on common land and augments the preceding paper petition containing over 300 names which called for the protection of Marian Common, Llangoed. We fully support the petitioner and the views of Mr Lewis Davies in his letter to you dated 30th May 2013. We fear that, unless there are stronger statutory laws to prevent the acquisition of common land for private development, Marian Common, and other commons in Wales, will be lost forever to the detriment of local communities and the natural environment.

We have recently spoken to members of the community who are also concerned about the protection of this land and who agree with the statements above.

Dr Karen Pollock & Mr Tom Pollock

Agenda Item 5c

Alun Davies AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd
Minister for Natural Resources and Food



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref AD-/02008/13

Datydd Elis-Thomas AM/AC
Environment & Sustainability Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

15 January 2014

Welsh Government's Second Annual Report on Climate Change

Thank you for your letter of 16th December 2013 regarding preparations for the Committee's proposed scrutiny of climate change action in Wales. I welcome the opportunity to discuss the Welsh Government's progress on tackling the causes and consequences of climate change.

With regard to you request for the data used to calculate performance against the targets, please find the following links to:

Greenhouse gas inventory

The data that we use to compile the targets is from the published Greenhouse Gas Inventory for Wales, which can be found on the UK Government sponsored National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory website.

http://naei.defra.gov.uk/reports/reports?report_id=756

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence: Alun.Davies@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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Method

Earlier this year we published the method paper which explains how we use the data to calculate our 3% target. The publication can be found on the Welsh Government website at the below link:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/climatechange/publications/?lang=en>

Technical Annex

We will also very shortly be publishing a Technical Annex to the Annual Report which gives further details on our emission reduction performance indicators.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alun Davies'.

Alun Davies AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd
Minister for Natural Resources and Food